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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/767,008	NINOMIYA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Alvin A. Hunter	3711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/24/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 26,30 and 32-36.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413).
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |


EUGENE KIM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

ATTACHMENT B
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a multi-piece golf ball having a core, an intermediate layer, and a cover comprising:

a first process of molding the core having a spherical body and ribs arranged on the surface of the spherical body, each rib having at least one notch;

a second process of forming an intermediate layer in the notches and a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs, the intermediate layer having a thickness that is almost the same as the height of the rib; and

a third process of providing a cover over the intermediate layer.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing the multi-piece golf ball according to claim 26, wherein the second process comprises the steps of:

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a process of preparing an upper part and lower part of the mold each provided with a hemispheric concave portion; and

a process of molding the intermediate layer in the notches and a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs by injection molding after inserting the core between the upper part and lower part of the mold.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The method for manufacturing the multi-piece golf ball according to claim 26,

wherein the thickness of the cover is 0.8 to 2.4 mm;

the ribs are structured so as to extend along three great circles drawn on the spherical body in such a manner as to intersect each other at right angles, and have a height of 1.2 to 4.6 mm;

each circular arc section partitioned by the intersections of the great circles is provided with a notch or notches;

the length of the upper end portion in each circular arc section without a notch is no smaller than 10 mm and the depth of each notch is no smaller than 1.2 mm; and

the intermediate layer fills eight concave portions surrounded by the ribs and disposed between the cover and the surface of the spherical body,

the second process comprising:

a process of preparing an upper part and lower part of the mold each having a hemispherical concave portion; and

a process of molding the intermediate layer in the notches and a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs by injection molding after inserting the core between the upper part and lower part of the mold.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a multi-piece golf ball having a core, an intermediate layer and a cover comprising:

a first process of molding the core having a spherical body and ribs arranged on the surface of the spherical body, each rib having at least one notch;

a second process of forming an intermediate layer in the notches and a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs, the intermediate layer having a thickness that is almost the same as the height of the rib, the second process comprises the steps of:

a process of press molding a pair of hemispherical, shell-like pieces for forming the intermediate layer, wherein the pieces are composed of a rubber composition in a semi-vulcanized condition; and

a process in which the core is placed between the pair of pieces for forming the intermediate layer, the edges of mouths of the pair of the pieces for forming the intermediate layer are put into contact with each other, and the pieces for forming the intermediate layer are fully vulcanized by press molding so that the intermediate layer is formed; and

a third process of providing a cover over the intermediate layer.

34. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a multi-piece golf ball having a core, an intermediate layer, and a cover comprising:

a first process of molding the core having a spherical body and ribs arranged on the surface of the spherical body;

a second process of forming an intermediate layer in a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs, the intermediate layer having a thickness that is almost the same as the height of the rib, the second process comprising the steps of:

a process of press molding a pair of hemispherical, shell-like pieces for forming the intermediate layer, wherein the pieces are composed of a rubber composition in a semi-vulcanized condition, the process of press molding a pair of hemispherical, shell-like pieces for comprising the steps of:

preparing an upper part and lower part of the mold each provided with a hemispheric concave portion;

preparing a middle part of the mold provided with a separator having a size that can cover the concave portions of the upper part and lower part of the mold, and a pair of hemispheric convex portions each arranged on the upper surface and the lower surface of the separator that are shaped so as to correspond to the inner surface of the intermediate layer; and

molding the pieces for forming the intermediate layer in the semi-vulcanized condition by placing the middle part of the mold between the upper part and lower part of the mold, filling the concave portions of the upper part and lower part of the mold with the material for the intermediate layer, and press molding; and

a process in which the core is placed between the pair of pieces for forming the intermediate layer, the edges of mouths of the pair of the pieces for forming the intermediate layer are put into contact with each other, and the pieces for forming the intermediate layer are fully vulcanized by pressed molding so that the intermediate layer is formed; and

a third process of providing a cover over the intermediate layer.

35. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a multi-piece golf having a core, and intermediate layer, and a cover comprising:

a first process of molding the core having a spherical body and ribs arranged on the surface of the spherical body, said process forming at least one notch in each rib;

a second process forming an intermediate layer in a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs, the intermediate layer having a thickness that is almost the same as the height of the rib, said second process comprises the steps of:

a process of preparing an upper part and lower part of the mold each provided with a hemispheric concave portion; and

a process of molding the intermediate layer in notches and a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs by inserting the core between the upper part and lower part of the mold, filling the concave portions of the upper part and lower part of the mold with the material for the intermediate layer that is composed of a rubber composition, press molding so that the material for the intermediate layer spreads throughout the plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs through the notches; and

a third process of providing a cover over the intermediate layer.

36. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing a multi-piece golf ball having a core, an intermediate layer, and a cover comprising:

a first process of molding the core having a spherical body and ribs arranged on the surface of the spherical body;

a second process of forming an intermediate layer in a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs, the intermediate layer having a thickness that is almost the same as the height of the rib, said second process comprising:

a process of preparing an upper part and lower part of the mold each provided with a hemispheric concave portion; and

a process of molding the intermediate layer in notches and a plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs by inserting the core between the upper part and lower part of the mold, filling the concave portions of the upper part and lower part of the mold with the material for the intermediate layer that is composed of a rubber composition, press molding so that the material for the intermediate layer spreads throughout the plurality of concave portions surrounded by the ribs through the notches; and

a third process of providing a cover over the intermediate layer,

wherein the thickness of the cover is 0.8 to 2.4 mm;

the ribs are structured so as to extend along three great circles drawn on the spherical body in such a manner as to intersect each other at right angles, and have a height of 1.2 to 4.6 mm;

each circular arc section partitioned by the intersections of the great circles is provided with a notch or notches;

the length of the upper end portion in each circular arc section without a notch is no smaller than 10 mm and the depth of each notch is no smaller than 1.2 mm; and

the intermediate layer fills eight concave portions surrounded by the ribs and disposed between the cover and the surface of the spherical body.